

BRADFORD-ON-AVON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER and
SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1951



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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area	2,005 acres
Population	5,603
Rateable Value	£27,863
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£109 12 8

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population	...	5,603			
		M.	F.	Total	1950
Live Births—Legitimate	...	44	44	88	90
Illegitimate	...	2	1	3	1
Total	...	46	45	91	91
Still Births—Legitimate	...	0	1	1	1
Illegitimate	...	0	1	1	1
Total	...	0	2	2	2
Deaths from all causes	...	44	26	70	84
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :					
Legitimate	...	3	1	4	2
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0	0
Total	...	3	1	4	2
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks		3	1	4	1 (Legitimate)
Crude Live Birth rate	16.24	Urban District		England and Wales	
Corrected Birth rate	16.59	per 1,000 of population.		Comparison	
(Comparability Factor 1.01)				15.5	
Still Birth rate	0.36	per 1,000 of population.		„	
Crude Death rate :				.36	
All Causes	12.49	per 1,000 of population.		„	
Corrected Death rate	10.37	per 1,000 of population.		12.5	
(Comparability Factor .83)					
Infants under 1 year	43.96	per 1,000 live births.		„	
Death rate of Infants				29.6	
under 4 weeks	43.96	per 1,000 live births.		„	
				—	

Analysis of deaths from all causes.				Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...			1	—	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...			—	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	—	1
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	2	2	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	3	1	4
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diabetes	...	...	...	—	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	3	6	9
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	4	1	5
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	—	1	1
Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...	12	6	18
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	2	1	3
Influenza	...	...	...	1	—	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	2	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	3	1	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	1	—	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	—	1	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...	6	2	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	—	—	—
All other Accidents	...	...	...	1	1	2
Suicide	...	...	...	2	—	2
Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	...	...	44	26	70

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

1. *Comparability Factors.* Area comparability factors for births and for deaths, allowing for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, are given and may be used for comparing birth rates and death rates with those in other areas.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

STAFF.

1. *One part-time Medical Officer*, who is also Medical Officer of Health to the Trowbridge Urban District Council and an Assistant County Medical Officer.
2. *Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.* T. J. Lees, M.S.I.A., R.S.I.
3. *A part-time typist* who also works for the Trowbridge Sanitary Inspectors.
4. *A part-time Rodent Operator.*
- (a) *Laboratory Facilities.* The Salisbury Area Pathological Laboratory, stationed in the Salisbury Infirmary precincts, undertakes all necessary bacteriological and pathological examinations. The distance (33 miles) causes difficulties in the transmission and transport of specimens; these difficulties are more than outweighed by the courtesy shown and assistance given by all the staff.
- (b) *Ambulance Facilities.* The Ambulance Station for the area of the County Council Ambulance Service, is stationed at Woolley Grange, in this town.
- (c) *Nursing in the Home.* There are two district nurses—one midwife, one general.
- (d) *Home Helps.* The County Council Home Helps service is giving great assistance in cases of acute illness and even more in giving sufficient assistance in the homes of aged persons to prevent them having to be moved to Institutions. It must be understood very clearly that Home Helps must not be expected to do Home Nursing.
- (e) *Treatment Centres and Clinics.* A Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Church House on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Dr. Semple, the Deputy County Medical Officer, the Health Visitor (Miss Francis) and the two district nurses (when free from other duties) attend each session.
- (f) *Hospital Accommodation and Maternity Homes.*
 1. The Bradford-on-Avon District Hospital continues to be available for general cases.
 2. *Berryfield Maternity Hospital.* This establishment is used for cases from the Hospital Management Committee's area.
 3. *Trowbridge and District Isolation Hospital.* This hospital continues to admit cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment. It also has beds for 8 tuberculosis cases. When the beds are not required for infectious diseases, they are used for general medical purposes.
 4. *Claverton (Bath) Isolation Hospital.* All cases of suspected and proved cases of polio-myelitis are admitted to this hospital and transferred when necessary to the Bath and Wessex Orthopaedic Hospital.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

No case came under the Council's consideration during the year.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF AREA.

WATER SUPPLY. Paragraph 6, Part II.—Bacteriological examination was made of water supplied from the town mains, as follows :—

Samples taken	...	16	Satisfactory	...	16
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There is no tendency to plumbo solvent action in the water supply.

Samples were taken in two cases at the request of medical practitioners but in both cases there was no evidence of organisms of the staphylococci, enterica dysentery or salmonella groups after centrifugion.

The estimated population served by stand pipe is 700 persons, being 12% of the population.

Only five houses within the Urban District are known not to be supplied with water from the town mains.

REPORTS ON BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Water sample received on 25/1/51 at 9.30 a.m. from Westbury House, Main; Bradford-on-Avon Urban District Council.

1. BACTERIOLOGICAL COUNT. Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C. in 48 hours : TEN per 1 m.l. of water.

2. B. COLI COUNTS at 37°C. in 48 hours and 44°C. in 48 hours :

Quantity of water tested.	Acid and gas from lactose.									
	at 37°C.					44°C.				
Five tubes of 10 m.l. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Five tubes of 1 m.l. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

As a result of calculations made from above :

(1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 m.l. growing at 37°C. : NIL.

(2) Number of Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 m.l. growing at 44°C. : NIL.

Opinion. Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution.

Date 29/1/51.

(Signed) H. W. H. KENNARD, *Pathologist.*

Water sample received on 9/5/51 at 9.30 a.m. from Reception Tank; Bradford-on-Avon Urban District Council.

1. BACTERIOLOGICAL COUNT. Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C. in 48 hours : FOUR per 1 m.l. of water.

2. B. COLI COUNTS at 37°C. in 48 hours and 44°C. in 48 hours :

Quantity of water tested.	Acid and gas from lactose.									
	at 37°C.					44°C.				
Five tubes of 10 m.l. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Five tubes of 1 m.l. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

As a result of calculations made from above :

- (1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 m.l. growing at 37° C. : NIL.
- (2) Number of Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 m.l. growing at 44°C. : NIL.

Opinion. Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of bacterial pollution.

Date 11/5/51.

(Signed) H. W. H. KENNARD, *Pathologist.*

IMPROVEMENTS TO WATER SUPPLY :—

1. *Higher Level Improvement Scheme.* The laying of the new main to supply the higher reaches of the town was completed, as also was the new reservoir.
2. *New Well.* Negotiations are still in progress with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.—The weekly collection of refuse continues despite the expansion of the town. Waste paper salvage was continued throughout the year, resulting in a good profit after all expenses were deducted.

There were no complaints of fly infestation from householders owing to the regular spraying carried out and the use of excavated material from the new reservoir site for covering the tip.

SEWERAGE.

The analysis of the effluent from the sewage works was as follows :—

Turbidity—slightly cloudy. Colour—very pale opal. Suspended matter—slightly flocculent. Smell—none. The B.O.D. at 26·7 C. in 4 hours was 1·05-2·3 parts per 100,000.

The result of this analysis was considered by the Bristol Avon River Board to be satisfactory.

The Council co-operated with the Central Public Health Laboratory in swabbing sewers for poliomyelitis research purposes.

PUBLIC BATHS.

Three samples were taken of the Swimming Bath water and were all reported upon satisfactorily. It is interesting to note that the 6 slipper baths are in constant use.

HOUSING.

Thirty-nine houses were completed by the Council during the year, making a total of 137 permanent and 30 temporary houses completed under the post-war housing programme.

During the year, 9 houses were erected by private enterprise, making a total of 28 since the war.

During the year, 6 houses were modernised by private enterprise and an undertaking under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, was removed on one owner submitting proposals satisfactory to the Council.

Two houses, subject of an unconfirmed clearance order, were demolished during the year.

Site works were started on a site of 50 houses and negotiations are in progress for the acquisition of a site for a further 60.

HOUSING APPLICATIONS.—There were 159 names on the Council's housing list at the end of the year. All applicants are now visited by a sub-committee of the Council, comprising the Chairman of the Housing Committee, a member of the Housing Committee and the Sanitary Inspector.

GENERAL.—The administration of the Housing Act, 1936, is becoming daily more difficult. The rising cost of maintenance coupled with static rents is progressively embracing a greater proportion of houses in the category of “unfit and cannot be repaired at reasonable expense,” and it is a matter of concern that houses which could be saved are slowly deteriorating into that category because of inability of small owners to meet repair bills.

There is a tendency, therefore, to “patch and make do” when a larger expenditure would extend the life of the property and be more economical in the long run.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. Inspections during the year :—

Inspections under the Food and Drugs Act	...	...	147
Inspections under the Factories Act	...	...	41
Inspections under the Nuisance Sections	...	...	192
			Nuisances detected—49
			Nuisances abated—42
Inspections under the Housing Act	...	...	28
Inspections in connection with Housing Applications	...	...	329
Inspections in connection with Drainage Byelaws	...	...	57
Inspections in connection with Supply of Water	...	...	42
Inspections under Shops Act	...	...	20
Inspections : Public Health Matters	...	...	287
Inspections in connection with Rodent Control	...	...	56
Inspections in connection with Refuse Collection	...	...	66
			<hr/> 1,265 <hr/>

DAIRIES AND DISTRIBUTORS OF MILK.

DISTRIBUTION AND SALE.—The new Milk and Dairies Regulations have proved somewhat difficult to enforce in times of acute shortage.

There exist the following licences to retail milk :—

Licences to retail Pasteurised milk	...	...	...	3
Licence to retail Tuberculin Tested milk	...	...	...	1
Licences to retail Tuberculin Tested milk (Subsidiary)	...	...	...	2
Licence to retail Undesignated milk	...	...	...	1

MILK SAMPLING.—During the year 23 samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. Three failed to reach the required standard and were followed up. Seven samples were submitted for biological examination and were found to be free from the Tubercle Bacillus.

UNDULANT FEVER.—2 cases were reported during the year : both had used undesignated milk from the same farm, although in the more serious case there was a period of 3 weeks during which there was a chance that the infection might have been acquired elsewhere. The farmer offered every facility for sampling, and had the cattle inspected by a veterinary surgeon. No evidence of the causal organism having been present was found.

SHOPS, STALLS AND PLACES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The following are the food premises existing in the town at 31/12/50 : Butchers 5; Bakeries 4; Grocers 6; Fruiterers and Fishmongers 4; Cafes and Snack Bars 3; General Stores 6; Fried Fish Shops 1; Confectioners 4; Fish Preparation Rooms 1.

VISITS.—147 visits were made to food premises during the year. 18 informal notices were served in respect of infringements. Formal notice was served on one occasion.

ICE CREAM.—Retail premises registered at 31/12/51 ... 10

There are no ice cream factories in the district and the entire ice cream supply (with the exception of "lolly-ices") is pre-wrapped and is sold unopened.

Ice cream sampling is rather difficult in view of the difficulties of obtaining dry ice and the time which must elapse between sampling and delivery to the laboratory some 30 miles away.

Sixteen samples were taken during the year :—

8 were graded in Category 1
4 were graded in Category 2
4 were graded in Category 3
Nil were graded in Category 4

16

One ice cream registration was cancelled during the year and one new registration granted.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.—None reported during the year.

PART 10, BYELAWS.—During the year the Council applied for a confirmation of Food Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, but these had not been confirmed by the end of the year.

PART 11, CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS.—Cards requesting that dogs be not brought into food premises were distributed to all food retailers in the district, and were welcomed by most of the shopkeepers concerned.

A film was shown at a local cinema on the hygienic handling of food.

RODENT CONTROL.

As a result of routine treatment in the town and in neighbouring farms, it was possible to reduce the time spent on Rodent Control to one week in four.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Age Group	Scarlet Fever		Measles		Acute Poliomyelitis		Whooping Cough	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
1	—	—	3	4	—	—	6	4
3	2	—	10	5	—	—	1	5
5	1	2	8	9	—	—	5	12
10	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	4	2	22	21	—	—	13	24

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	2	2	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	29	39	4	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL		31	41	4	—	

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) unsuitable or defective	10	3	3	—	2	—	10
(c) not separate for sexes	11	1	1	—	2	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL		4	4	—	4	—	

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	Section 110			Section 111			M/c line No.
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Wearing / Making, etc. ... apparel \ Cleaning and washing	13	4	—	—	—	—	—	13
	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	14

JEAN MURRAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

THOMAS J. LEES, M.S.I.A., R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

